

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for allocating a plurality of resources to a plurality of applications, the method comprising:
  - configuring a system with a resource allocation program;
  - wherein the resource allocation program performs steps comprising:
    - determining whether one of the applications has requested the resources;
    - responsive to the determination that one of the applications has requested the resources, determining a policy associated with the application using a policy allocation table;
    - responsive to the determination of the policy associated with the application, determining a resource allocation associated with the policy using a resource allocation table; and
    - responsive to the determination of the resource allocation associated with the policy, allocating a portion of the resources to the application based on the resource allocation associated with the policy.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - wherein the policy is one of a plurality of policies;
  - determining if a user wants to define at least one of the policies; and
  - responsive to the determination that the user wants to define the policies, accepting a user definition, modification, or deletion of at least one of the policies in a resource allocation table.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining if a user wants to assign the policies to the applications; and  
responsive to the determination that the user wants to assign the policies to the applications, accepting a user assignment, modification, or deletion of at least one of the associations between the policies and the applications in a resource allocation table.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

wherein each of the applications is associated with one of a plurality of customers;  
and

wherein the resource allocation program allocates the resources to the applications based upon the policy associated with the application and independent of the status of the customers associated with the applications.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a consistent quality of service is achieved for substantially all of the applications associated with each policy.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource allocation program allocates all of the currently available resources to the application, subject to the limitations defined in resource allocation table for the policy associated with the application.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the resource allocation program waits until the amount of resources defined in the resource allocation table are available, and then the resource allocation program allocates the entire amount of resources defined in the resource allocation table for the policy to the application.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the system is a computer network.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the system is a computer file.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the system is a computer operating system.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the system is a computer program.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the system is a virtual machine.

13. A program product for allocating a plurality of resources to a plurality of applications, the program product comprising:

a computer-usable medium;

wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions for a computer to perform steps comprising:

determining whether one of the applications has requested the resources;

responsive to the determination that one of the applications has requested the resources, determining a policy associated with the application using a policy allocation table;

responsive to the determination of the policy associated with the application, determining a resource allocation associated with the policy using a resource allocation table; and

responsive to the determination of the resource allocation associated with the policy, allocating a portion of the resources to the application based on the resource allocation associated with the policy.

14. The program product of claim 13 further comprising:

wherein the policy is one of a plurality of policies;

determining if a user wants to define at least one of the policies; and

responsive to the determination that the user wants to define the policies, accepting a user definition, modification, or deletion of at least one of the policies in a resource allocation table.

15. The program product of claim 14 further comprising:
- determining if a user wants to assign the policies to the applications; and
  - responsive to the determination that the user wants to assign the policies to the applications, accepting a user assignment, modification, or deletion of at least one of the associations between the policies and the applications in a resource allocation table.
16. The program product of claim 15 further comprising:
- wherein each of the applications is associated with one of a plurality of customers;
  - and
  - wherein the resource allocation program allocates the resources to the applications based upon the policy associated with the application and independent of the status of the customers associated with the applications.
17. The program product of claim 16 wherein a consistent quality of service is achieved for substantially all of the applications associated with each policy.
18. The program product of claim 17 wherein the program product allocates all of the currently available resources to the application, subject to the limitations defined in resource allocation table for the policy associated with the application.
19. The program product of claim 17 wherein the program product waits until the amount of resources defined in the resource allocation table are available, and then the program product allocates the entire amount of resources defined in the resource allocation table for the policy to the application.
20. The program product of claim 17 wherein the system is a computer network.
21. The program product of claim 17 wherein the system is a computer file.
22. The program product of claim 17 wherein the system is a computer operating system.

23. The program product of claim 17 wherein the system is a computer program.
24. The program product of claim 17 wherein the system is a virtual machine.
25. A apparatus for allocating a plurality of resources to a plurality of applications, the apparatus comprising:
- means for determining if a user wants to define at least one of a plurality of policies;  
responsive to the determination that the user wants to define at least one of the policies, means for accepting a user definition, modification, or deletion of at least one of the policies in a resource allocation table;
  - means for determining if a user wants to assign the policies to the applications;  
responsive to the determination that the user wants to assign the policies to the applications, means for accepting a user assignment, modification, or deletion of at least one of the associations between the policies and the applications in a resource allocation table;
  - means for determining whether one of the applications has requested the resources;  
responsive to the determination that one of the applications has requested the resources, means for determining the policy associated with the application using a policy allocation table;
  - responsive to the determination of the policy associated with the application, means for determining a resource allocation associated with the policy using a resource allocation table;
  - responsive to the determination of the resource allocation associated with the policy, means for allocating a portion of the resources to the application based on the resource allocation associated with the policy;

wherein each of the applications is associated with one of a plurality of customers;

wherein the resource allocation program allocates the resources to the applications based upon the policy associated with the application and independent of the status of the customers associated with the applications; and

wherein a consistent quality of service is achieved for substantially all of the applications associated with each policy.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the means for allocating allocates all of the currently available resources to the application, subject to the limitations defined in resource allocation table for the policy associated with the application.
27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the means for allocating waits until the amount of resources defined in the resource allocation table are available, and then the means for allocating allocates the entire amount of resources defined in the resource allocation table for the policy to the application.
28. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the system is a computer network.
29. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the system is a computer file.
30. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the system is a computer operating system.
31. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the system is a computer program.
32. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the system is a virtual machine.